

REMARKS

This Reply is in response to the non-final Office Action mailed from the United States Patent and Trademark Office ("USPTO") on October 29, 2007.

On June 7, 2001, Applicants filed a Petition under 37 C.F.R. §1.47(a) to join non-signing inventors, Robert H. Maurer and Michael Cranor (the "original Rule 47(a) Petition").

On January 10, 2007, a Notice of Allowance was received from the USPTO, in which claims 4, 6, 8, 9 and 34-44 were allowed and withdrawn claims 5, 7, 10-12, 14-16, 18, 19 and 21-33 were canceled by Examiner Amendment. This Reply confirms the cancellation identified in the Examiner's Amendment.

On March 5, 2007, the Office of Petitions dismissed the original Rule 47(a) Petition.

On April 5, 2007, Applicants filed a Request for Continued Examination (RCE) along with an Information Disclosure Statement.

On October 29, 2007, a non-final Office Action was mailed from the USPTO indicating that, although the references cited by the Applicants have been considered, the Applicants have not responded to the dismissal of the original Rule 47(a) Petition in a timely manner and therefore the application is technically abandoned.

In response, Applicants are concurrently filing a Petition for Revival of an Application for Patent Abandoned Unintentionally Under 37 C.F.R. §1.137(b) and a Request for Reconsideration of Petition Under 37 C.F.R. §1.47(a).

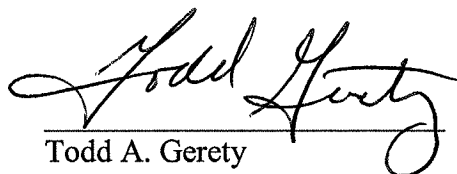
Applicants believe that the claims 4, 6, 8, 9 and 34-44 are in condition for allowance, and thus respectively request that this application be passed to issue upon grant of the Petitions under Rule 137(b) and Rule 47(a).

CONCLUSION

In view of the above remarks, it is believed that claims 4, 6, 8, 9 and 34-44 are in condition for allowance, and it is respectfully requested that the application be passed to issue. If the Examiner feels that a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this case, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned.

Date: March 31, 2008

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A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Todd Gerety", written over a horizontal line.

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